

demand for a fascinating account of these bizarre creatures. The more informed will also be grateful to him, for bringing together not only the salient features of cephalopod biology, but also for many curious out-of-the-way descriptions of encounters by divers and others with these denizens of the deep. There is no doubt that he has cast his net widely for strange tales of meetings with octopuses and giant squids—and good journalist that he is—has Mr. Lane perhaps conveyed the impression that some of these creatures are a shade more dangerous than they really are?

The author begins with a general description of cephalopod morphology and this is supplemented with some excellent diagrams of the main anatomical features of *Octopus*, *Sepia* and *Loligo*. Later chapters are devoted to food, enemies, locomotion, behaviour, colour, luminescence, reproduction, fishing and economic importance. In compiling these chapters Mr. Lane has been in touch with a large number of scientists and laymen so the information is varied both in content and sometimes in quality, but, all in all, he has been very successful, and it should be noted that the book is illustrated with a splendid series of photographs. They range from a photograph taken in 1873 by Moses Harvey of the first giant squid to be made available for scientific study, to modern colour pictures of deep-water species.

Apart from the anatomical drawings already mentioned, other appendixes include a classified list of the species noted in the text, a glossary and an excellent bibliography of 30 pages of selected references.

There are two editions of this book, British and American; the former published in 1957 contained some minor errors, but these have, however, been rectified in the 1960 American edition which has been enlarged to 300 pages.

W. J. R.

WIDEAWAKE ISLAND. The Story of the British Ornithological Union's Centenary Expedition to Ascension. By BERNARD STONEHOUSE. Hutchinson. 35s.

Expeditions to remote islands have a strong appeal, and the story of this one, in 1957–59, is well and informally written and will be enjoyed by many people besides expert ornithologists.

Ascension Island, 40 square miles in mid-south Atlantic, has had a varied history from its discovery on Ascension Day, 1501, to its present day use as a cable station and as a post connected with the United States guided missile range. It is also of great

importance as a centre for tropical sea birds, especially the Wideawake or Sooty terns which breed there in huge colonies or "fairs". The expedition gathered much fascinating new information about the habits and breeding cycles of these and other birds—boobies, boatswain, and frigate birds in particular. They found that all but the terns had been driven from once abundant breeding sites on the island to outlying stacks, by the appalling predation of feral cats. This is a distressingly familiar story and one wonders if any attempt could be made to control these animals.

Studies were also made of the Green Turtle, now protected, which lays its eggs on the beaches. The author devoted some time to research among the island's archives, and he includes an interesting historical chapter.

The expedition consisted of four permanent members, including the author's wife—who must surely be the pattern for every expedition's wife—and three additional men who joined for shorter periods. The excellent lecture and film given recently in the Festival Hall, London, by two of the members bears out the book's impression of a very happy and well-organized expedition which has done valuable work. The book is illustrated by good photographs and drawings, and there is a clear map.

A. M. V. B.

NATURE AND MAN. By JOHN HILLABY. Progress of Science, series No. 9. Phoenix House. 9s. 6d.

This is an excellent book and I recommend it very highly. It is one of several edited by Nigel Calder and intended for young people interested in scientific careers, each book giving authoritative information about a particular science and containing a chapter on careers. If all these books are as good as *Nature and Man*, it must certainly be an extremely interesting and valuable series.

Nature and Man is about the balance of nature and man's place in the balance, which he has abused, and his changing attitude towards it, which is shown by the existence of such organizations as The International Union for the Conservation of Nature. John Hillaby writes most interestingly about such things as great animal migrations, odd survivals from the past, animals which will become extinct unless steps are taken to preserve them, man's influence on his environment and his destructive powers, as well as his efforts to preserve and conserve. The book is very well thought out, very informative and very well written. I cannot see it failing to absorb any young person